deposit terms at Yerraguntala from State Government/ Local Municipality. Rs. 5 Crore in the 97-98 Budget have been provided for Nandyal-Yerraguntala new BG line. Work will be taken up after land is made available by State Government Detailed Territorial jurisdictions of newly created zones have not yet been finalised.

Reduction in Running time of Rajdhani Express

4166. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the running time of Rajdhani Express running between Delhi and Chennai;

(b) whether it is a fact that this route has more passenger traffic than the other metro connections;

(c) if so, the reasons for not increasing the schedule from once a week to six times a week; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Upgradation of technology for speeding up of the trains is a continuous process on the Indian Railways.

(b) Route-wise data of passenger traffic are not maintained.

(c) and (d) The frequency of 2633/2634 Madras Rajdhani Express is being increased from weekly to bi-weekly during April'97. Further increase in its frequency is not feasible at present.

Development of Srinagar Airport

4167. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make arrangements for developing Srinagar airport as an international airport; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Srinagar Airport belongs to Ministry of Defence. Clearance/approval of that Ministry has been sought for developing facilities to enable international operations from Srinagar airport.

Bharat Gold Mines Limited

4168. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of gold by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the operation of BGML;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also propose to set up a new process plant based on carbon-inpulp technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The production of gold by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) during each of the last three years is furnished below :

(Unit is Kgs.)

Year	Production
1993-94	672
1994-95	650
1995-96	650

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The rehabilitation package, submitted by M/s ICICI, the Operating Agency for the revival of BGML, envisages setting up of a project for recovery of gold by treatment of tailing through carbon-in-pulp technology.

Beedi Industries in Kerala

4169. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether beedi industries in Kerala are facing serious financial crises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help the workers specially the large section of poor women employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Extraction of Lead from Bihar

4170. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey for exploration of lead in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the outcome thereof;